



Business-Cooperative Programs Rural Business Opportunity Grants

Committed to the future of rural communities.

The Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program is designed to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs in areas outside any city with a population of 50,000 or more and its adjacent urbanized area.

This is accomplished by making grants to organizations to provide for economic development planning, technical assistance, or training.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for the RBOG program include public bodies, nonprofit corporations, Indian tribes, or cooperatives with members that are primarily rural residents.

The applicant must have sufficient expertise in the activities proposed and financial strength to ensure accomplishment of the project objectives.

Maximum Grant Limit

The statutory limit is determined each fiscal year. The size of grants approved is limited by the amount of program funds available.

Eligible Uses

If awarded an RBOG, you may use the funds to pay costs of providing economic planning for rural communities, technical assistance for rural businesses, or training for rural entrepreneurs or economic development officials.

You must be able to show that the funding will result in economic development of a rural area.

Proposed projects must include a basis for determining the success or failure of the project and assessing its impact.

Application Guidelines

To develop an application, obtain a copy of the complete program regulation and refer to the application section.

Briefly, an application must include a Form SF 424.1 (Application for Federal Assistance for Non-Construction), a copy of your organizational documents, a scope of work, a written narrative, and a financial statement.

You may file applications with the State Office.

Applicant Selection

Successful applications will be scored on a priority scoring system. The scoring will consider various aspects of the project including:

- ◆ sustainability and quality of the economic activity expected to result from the project;
- ◆ extent to which the project is critical to a larger overall project;
- ◆ economic conditions in the service area, such as recent loss of a major employer, long-term job deterioration, poverty, or population decline; and
- ◆ project's usefulness as a new best practice.

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